

Stewardship

Ames United Church of Christ Sunday, August 19, 2018

Welcome to Ames UCC! Worship is the way we praise God and learn what it means to be a Christian. Services of worship are just that: a way that we serve the power that calls us together and sends us out to be the eyes, hands, and feet of justice in the world. We hope that you leave today feeling connected, renewed, and in relationship with the holy.

In keeping with the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, we joyfully and unconditionally welcome all people of any age, gender, race, culture, ability, sexual orientation, or gender identity into our community of faith and affirm the worth of all people as unique individuals made in God's image. We are open to the special gifts that each person brings and invite each one to participate in the life of our church.

Our deacon, ushers, and greeters for today are Janet Binder, Kevin Binder, Laura Deal, Laurie Olk, and Katherine Shields. Kevin Binder is scheduled for building lock up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE MEMORIAL BELL

CENTERING MUSIC "Great is Your Faithfulness" arr. L. Shackley

GREETINGS

CALL TO WORSHIP Jim Coppoc
A formal, and mutual, invitation to move into the worship experience.

One: Seek God's kingdom first,
Many: For God knows all that we need.

One: Seek God's kingdom first,
Many: For life is more than food and clothing.

One: Seek God's kingdom first,
Many: And all that is needed will be granted.

HYMN "O How Glorious, Full of Wonder," Hymn 558
Singing is one way to connect to God through our bodies. We stand up, breathe deep, and let loose. And as Augustine wrote, "(S)he who sings, prays twice."

INVOKING THE HOLY

God is always with us, so this “invoking” or invitation to God, is really an invitation to our own selves to become aware of that constant presence.

One: O Lord, you have given us all we need—and more. Turn our spirits away from worry and toward your faithfulness, that we might be freed to serve you in joy, hope, and gratitude. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Confession has a long tradition in Christian history. It is a way to name our own brokenness and failing, sometimes generically and sometimes quite specifically, as a means to cleanse our hearts as we move through the service.

One: We confess our brokenness before God and one another.
Generous God,

Many: **You have blessed us with riches overflowing.
And yet we waste what we are given.
We hoard what we have, and we long for what we don’t have.
We dishonor your gift when we deny those who are in need.
We bankrupt our own souls with greed.
Forgive our blindness. Make our hearts generous again.
Amen.**

SILENT PERSONAL CONFESSION

A brief moment to reflect on the prayer and your own heart and life. Silence is as important as noise in our dialogue with the divine.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

As a people of Easter, there is always good news: when we die to our brokenness, we live again in hope.

One: God offers forgiveness instead of excuses and, forgiven, we are strengthened again to live as generous children of God. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Passing the Peace is an ancient Christian tradition in which we show we carry no weapons, only love.

CHILDREN’S CELEBRATION “Come Together Children” K. Stewart

Children are very important to our church. Each service they come forward for a special lesson just for them. We want all children to know they are welcome everywhere in our sanctuary, even – especially – at the very front. We sing the song below as they come forward.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "Come to-gether child - ren, come to-gether now." The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "Cel - e-brate and clap your hands; come to-gether now!" The music is simple and suitable for children's voices.

GOSPEL Matthew 6:19-34 Eric Abbot

Gospel means “good news,” making the full title of this book of the Bible “The Good News of Jesus Christ according to Matthew.” Though it is the first gospel in the Christian Testament portion of the Bible, it is unlikely that it was the first one to be written down.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of (disease). If then the light in you is (disease), how great is the (disease)!”

“No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Creator feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will God not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the (unfaithful) who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Creator knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and God’s righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

“So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

SERMON

HYMN OF PREPARATION

“Take Our Bread” (insert)

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION WITH THE OFFERING OF FOOD AND GIFTS

Our Communion table is open to all: young and old, faithful and dubious. No one will be turned away. We serve the bread and the juice through “intinction,” which means dipping the bread into the juice. Your server will offer each to you with the phrases “the Bread of Life” and “the Cup of Blessing.” If you are unable to come forward but would like to participate in the meal, simply wait for your row to be empty, then raise your hand. A server will come to you. The bread is free of gluten, soy, and dairy. If you have brought canned goods for the Food at First pantry, please set them at the Communion table before being served.

Invocation

One: God of spirit and flesh, God of heaven and Earth, God of grape and grain, we spread our wings in flight toward you. We stretch our arms in need of you. We feed ourselves with gifts from you. We thank you for your love poured out as we sense you Spirit shining in the sunlight, sailing on the summer wind, and singing in the souls of each one gathered here. Recreate us in your image as we encounter you today, that our lives might ignite a love to light the world, where despair drips dreary on drowning dreams, and where heavy hearts shiver in lonely cold. Let your presence pressing through us infuse the world with joy, we pray, Amen.

Call to Communion

One: This is the table of God, the joyful host.

**Many: Everyone, child, youth, and adult,
Is welcome to eat at this table.**

One: No matter what our religious affiliation, no matter our particular beliefs, or nagging doubts may be,

**Many: we are all welcome at this meal.
With the boldness of Jesus we invite everyone:
Come and joyfully share!**

Sharing the Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**All: Eternal God,
we thank you for your presence
in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal.
By the power of your Holy Spirit,
unite us with all people,
that we may be the servant church of the servant Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Please share your prayer needs as you are so moved.

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

The basics of the Lord's Prayer appear in Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4. It may be familiar to you in this form, or with "sins" or "trespasses" toward the end. We also support the use of traditional or contemporary language for addressing the holy and naming the holy's realm.

**Our Father/Creator who art in heaven/the cosmos, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom/kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven/the
cosmos. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we
forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For
thine is the kingdom/kin-dom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever,
Amen.**

OFFERING

In 2018, ten percent of our total budget will help fund local, regional, and national charitable programs. On the third Sunday of each month, when we have Holy Communion, loose change and bills are designated for a Communion Fund, which supports our in-house Pastoral Emergency Fund. You can also designate your gift to the Pastoral Emergency Fund directly. If you would like to sign up for automated giving, contact Katie Tschopp at 515-232-9323 or office@amesucc.org.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN OF SENDING "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending" (insert)

BENEDICTION

From the Latin of "well" and "to speak," this is one final good word to send us off. Please join us next door in the parlor for coffee, tea, treats, and community.

9:30 a.m. Worship Through August

Our 9:30 a.m. summer worship schedule continues through August. On Sunday, September 2 (Labor Day Weekend) we will return to 10:30 a.m. Stay tuned for updates on our Sunday, September 9 Rally Day plan.

2018 Pridefest: Staff our Booth

The 2018 Ames Pridefest will be on Saturday, September 29 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Douglas Street between 6th and Main. We will have two booths with information, presents, prizes, and our own brand of radical welcome. The schedule for staffing our booths is below (many times have already been taken by the planning team and our Youth Group). I'd like two people per shift so that, with the overlapping shifts, we have four people present at any given time. Thank you! -Pr. Eileen (eileen@amesucc.org, 515-232-9323).

1 to 3 p.m.

3 to 5 p.m.

4 to 6 p.m.

5 to 7p.m.

6 to 8 p.m. (includes clean up)

Meet Megan Henson, our New Youth Director

Megan is an Iowa City native and has been a proud member of the Congregational Church United Church of Christ since birth. She moved to Ames after graduating from the University of Iowa with a bachelor's degree in Studio Arts.

Since then, she has held numerous positions working with the youth of Ames. She is an empathetic listener, a bridge builder, a cat whisperer, and a notoriously messy artist. She is always in the mood for a good cup of coffee and conversation. She prides herself on recognizing individuals and their strengths, seeing how everything is interconnected, and practicing radical love and acceptance. She is excited to work with the youth ministry, to laugh and be outrageous, to snack, and to build lasting relationships. She lives with her fiancé, Mat, and cat, Munster.



Prayer & Practice: Walk

Technically speaking, the walk from slavery to freedom in Exodus should not have taken much more than a month. Yet our story says it took forty years. Why?


Perhaps because the freed people were still in bondage to false idols and bad habits, both of which were easier to hold onto than the radical relationality of God's covenant.

Where are you on your own walk?

Try taking an actual walk to find out, be it on foot or with a walker or in a wheelchair or in your imagination.

Do not listen to anything on your phone, do not speak with any companions. Every time your mind goes to worry or to work, ask your feet to lead you a different way. Remind your lungs that they breathe "ruach," the breath of God. Remind your heart that God's love is yet tattooed on its every vein.

-Pr. Eileen Gebbie




WEDNESDAY
AFTERNOON CLUB

**FAITH,
PLAY,
SERVICE,
LIFE SKILLS,
& FRIENDSHIP.**

WEDNESDAYS DURING
THE SCHOOL YEAR
FROM 2 TO 5 P.M.

CONTACT PR. HANNAH HANNOVER
TO ENROLL YOUR KINDERGARTEN
THROUGH 5TH GRADER (FOR FREE!).



Calendar for the Week

Monday, August 20
5:30 p.m. Emergency Residence
Project (Yungclas)

Sunday, August 26
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Matthew 25 Ministers

Tuesday, August 21
7:15 p.m. Executive Board

Wednesday, August 22
10:45 a.m. Study for Sunday
12:00 p.m. Bell Ringing
12:00 p.m. Women’s Fellowship

Be In Touch with Ames UCC
217 6th Street, Ames, IA 50010
515-232-9323
Mon 8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Tues-Thurs 8:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

David Cook, Sexton cookdavi@gmail.com	Megan Henson, Youth Director megan@amesucc.org
Eileen Gebbie, Senior Minister eileen@amesucc.org	Lesley Lackore, Chancel Choir Director llackore@gmail.com
Hannah Hannover, Minister to Children & Families hannah@amesucc.org	Karen “Sunny” Stewart, Instrumentalist sunny@amesucc.org
	Katie Tschopp, Church Office Administrator office@amesucc.org